

MARVEL

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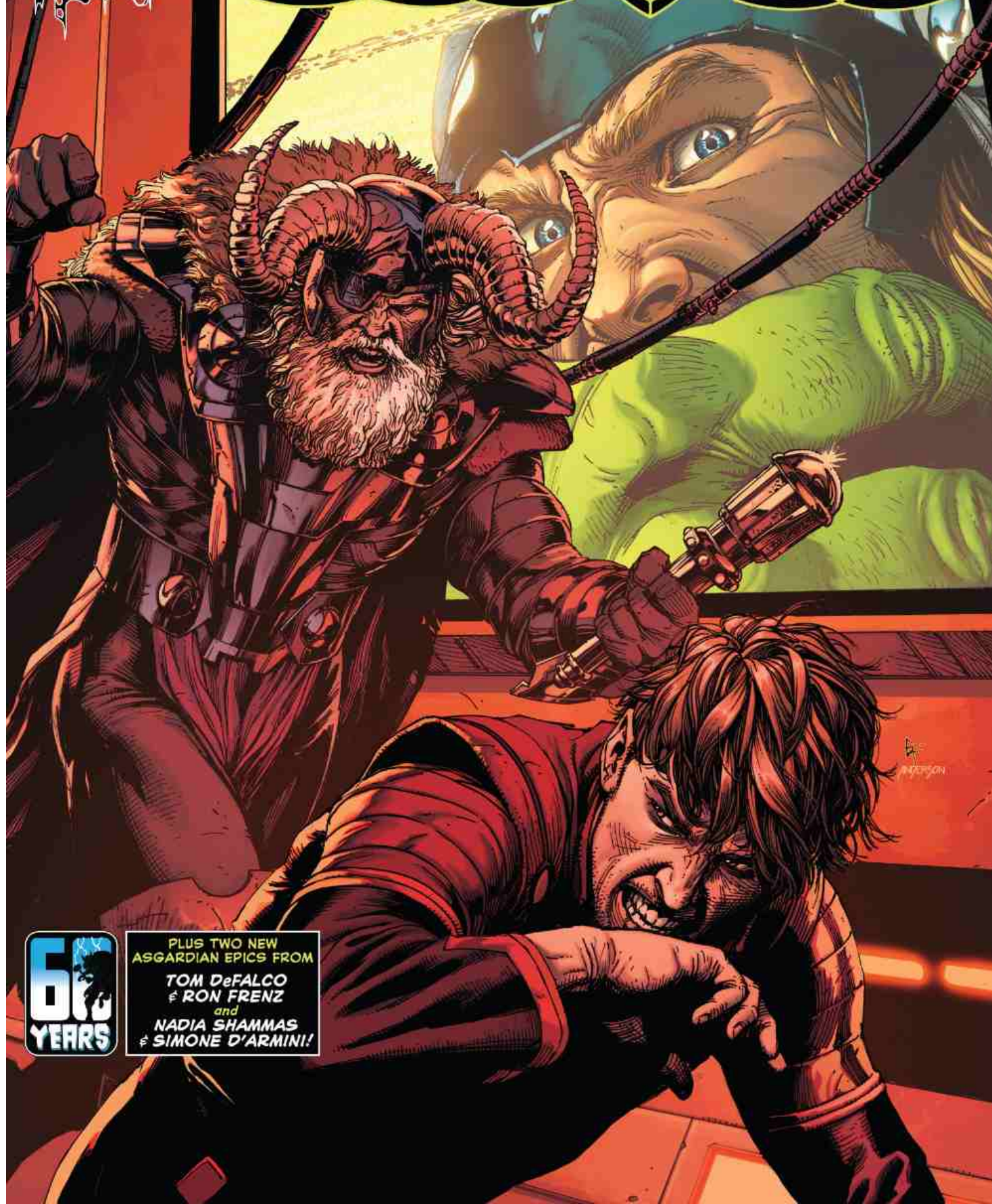
LGY#751

**BANNER
OF WAR**

PART 2

DONNY GATES • MARTIN COCCOLO • MATT WILSON

THOR



**60
YEARS**

PLUS TWO NEW
ASGARDIAN EPICS FROM

**TOM DeFALCO
& RON FRENZ**

and

**NADIA SHAMMAS
& SIMONE D'ARMINI!**

THOR is the king of Asgard, having recently taken over for his father, Odin. He is struggling to balance his role as the All-Father with his role as one of Earth's mightiest heroes on the Avengers. Recently, Odin died in battle and his spirit now inhabits Thor's hammer, Mjolnir.

HULK has recently undergone a dramatic transformation. His alter ego, Bruce Banner, has split the Hulk into three distinct parts: The Hulk's body has been turned into a starship. Banner's psyche pilots it from within the Hulk's mind. And the Hulk's psyche fuels the starship with his anger.

HULK VS. THOR BANNER OF WAR

PART TWO OF FIVE

HULK has been accused of murdering a bar full of patrons in El Paso, Texas, and the Avengers are determined to bring him to justice. So when **THOR** learned of Hulk's location, he immediately went to apprehend him, which led to a huge brawl in an arena in the far depths of space.

After Thor attempted to end the fight by pinning Hulk down with Mjolnir, Hulk managed to free himself by letting the hammer rip a hole through his chest as he stood up. In response, Odin's spirit entered the Hulk's mind to confront Bruce Banner directly...

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AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.





THIS IS...

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S AN ARENA. LOCALS CALL IT THE BLACK HAND OF GOD. A CELESTIAL RETROFITTED FOR INTERGALACTIC BLOOD SPORT AND BURIED IN THE DEEPEST REACHES OF UNCHARTED SPACE.

THAT... THAT IS--

YEAH...



...IT'S AWESOME.



I WAS GOING TO SAY TERRIFYING.

BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE HE'S THERE? HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?

I HAVE A NETWORK OF DEEP SPACE SATELLITES SLAVED TO MY INTERNAL MAINFRAME. THEY CONSTANTLY SWEEP FOR ACTIVITY IN PLACES EXPLORED OR NOT.



YESTERDAY, WE PICKED UP A SOUND.

A SOUND? IN--

YES. A SOUND. IN SPACE. SOMETHING SO LOUD THAT ITS VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY COMPLETELY FRIED ONE OF MY SPACE BABIES.



FROM THERE, I TRIANGULATED THE SOURCE OF THE SONIC DISTURBANCE AND ISOLATED IT.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

IT WAS A VOICE, REED. A VOICE SO LOUD THAT IT BLEW A SATELLITE OUT OF THE SKY FROM TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY.



IT SAID "HULK. SMASH."





ABSOLUTELY NOT.

I WASN'T ASKING FOR PERMISSION.

I AM TELLING YOU TO STAND DOWN!



YOU'RE NOT UNDERSTANDING ME, CAP.

HULK. BRUCE... WHATEVER THE HELL HE IS NOW...

I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES WHEN HE--

--INITIATE THRUSTER SEQUENCE--

--WHEN HE ATTACKED ME IN WUNDAGORE.*

*SEE HULK #1. --WIL



HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME.

HE TRIED...TO KILL ME.

AND, WELL...I GOTTA TELL YA, CAP: I DIDN'T CARE FOR IT.

SO...ONCE AGAIN--

THRUSTERS AT FULL CAPACITY AND HOLDING.

--STAND BY FOR LAUNCH COMMAND--

--I'M GONNA GO KICK HIS ASS.

AND I HAVE A NICE NEW TOY I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT WILL--

I'M NEVER AT THESE MEETINGS, CAP.

WAIT. ARE YOU HERE?



I HAVE PLACES TO BE.

LAUNCH.





STARSHIP HULK
COMMAND
DECK.

I AM NO
MAN OF SCIENCE,
BRUCE BANNER.

BUT I
AM WILLING
TO WAGER
THAT KILLING YOU
WILL BRING THIS
MONSTER DOWN
AS WELL.



I DO NOT
WISH THIS
TO COME TO
THAT.

BUT
I WILL IF I
MUST.



YOU'RE
NOT A MAN
AT ALL,
ODIN.

YOU'RE A
GHOST.



AND
YOU'RE IN MY
HOUSE.



COMPUTER!
INITIATE AUTO
DEFENSES!



GAH!!!

FIRE!



ARGGG!!!





BANNER.

BANNER,
WAKE UP!

WHAT
IN THE
HEL HAVE YOU
DONE?! WHERE
AM I?

WH-WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

YOU
TELL ME.
WE'RE IN
YOUR HEAD,
DOCTOR.

OH.
OH GOD.
NO...



WE'RE IN EL PASO.



THIS...

...THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENED.



I...I CAN'T BE HERE. WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? I LOCKED THIS AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS AGAIN! I DON'T...

YOUR DEFENSES ARE DOWN. YOUR MIND IS EXPOSED. AND THIS IS WHERE IT'S TAKEN US.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BANNER? WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID?

IT WASN'T... IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...



THE HULK...

...WE FACED DOWN THE DEVIL AND WALKED AWAY. WE SURVIVED.

WE... FORGAVE EACH OTHER.

DECIDED TO SEE THE WORLD IN A NEW WAY.



TO SAVE THE WORLD.

TOGETHER.





PUNY
BANNER!



WHA--?
NO!!! NO, YOU
CAN'T--



AGHH!!!



AND
THEN IT
SPREAD.

ALL
OF THEM.
INFECTED.

BY
RAGE.



BY ME.



BY
HIM.



WHEN I
OPENED MY
EYES AGAIN...
WHEN I COULD
MOVE-- --I SAW
BLACK.



THERE WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE IN THE
DRIVER'S
SEAT.

SOMETHING
NEW.

SOMETHING
HORRIFYING.

AND
I...



"...I WAS
HELPLESS.

"LOCKED INSIDE
OF MY OWN BODY.

"...RIPPED EVERYONE
IN THE ROOM TO
PIECES.

"AND...AND IT
MADE ME
WATCH.

"UNABLE TO
STOP.

"IT WOULDN'T STOP.
IT COULDN'T BE
STOPPED.

"POWERLESS
AS THIS THING...

"I WASN'T ALLOWED
TO EVEN BLINK AS IT
USED MY BODY AS
A WEAPON.

"THAT I WAS
SORRY.

"I COULD
SCREAM.

"I COULD HEAR
MYSELF TELLING
THESE MEN TO
RUN.

"BUT NO ONE COULD
HEAR ME OVER THE
SOUNDS OF ROARING
AND BREAKING BONES.

"I COULD FEEL
TEARS WET ON
MY CHEEKS.

"AND THEN...
SUDDENLY..."



...IT WAS OVER.



I STOOD THERE ALL NIGHT, WATCHING THE FIRE.

WISHING THAT I WAS INSIDE OF IT.

HOPING THAT SOMEONE WOULD COME TO SAVE ME...

...TO KILL ME.



BUT THEY NEVER DID.

SO THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED. IF THAT FURY THAT'S INSIDE OF ME CANNOT BE TAMED--CANNOT BE FORGIVEN OR MENDED--

--EVEN AFTER BEATING THE DEVIL...

...THEN I WOULD USE IT. LIKE HE USED ME.

GODS...BUT HOW? HOW DID YOU BUILD ALL OF THIS? THERE ARE GREAT MAGICS AT WORK HERE. HOW DID YOU--



CRASHING METAL

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THOR! NO, DAMN YOU! NOT YET! NOT--

AGHH!!!

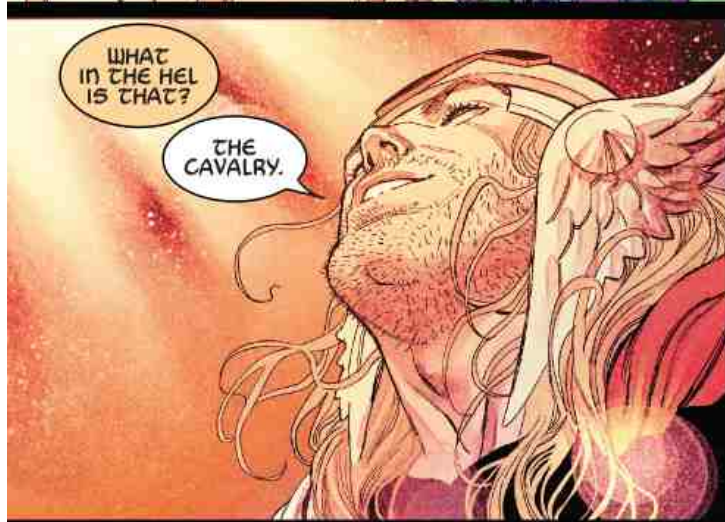


DAMN YOU, BOY! I NEED MORE TIME. SEND ME BACK!

THAT'S JUST IT, FATHER.



WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME.



WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT?

THE CAVALRY.



OH GOD. OH GOD. NO...

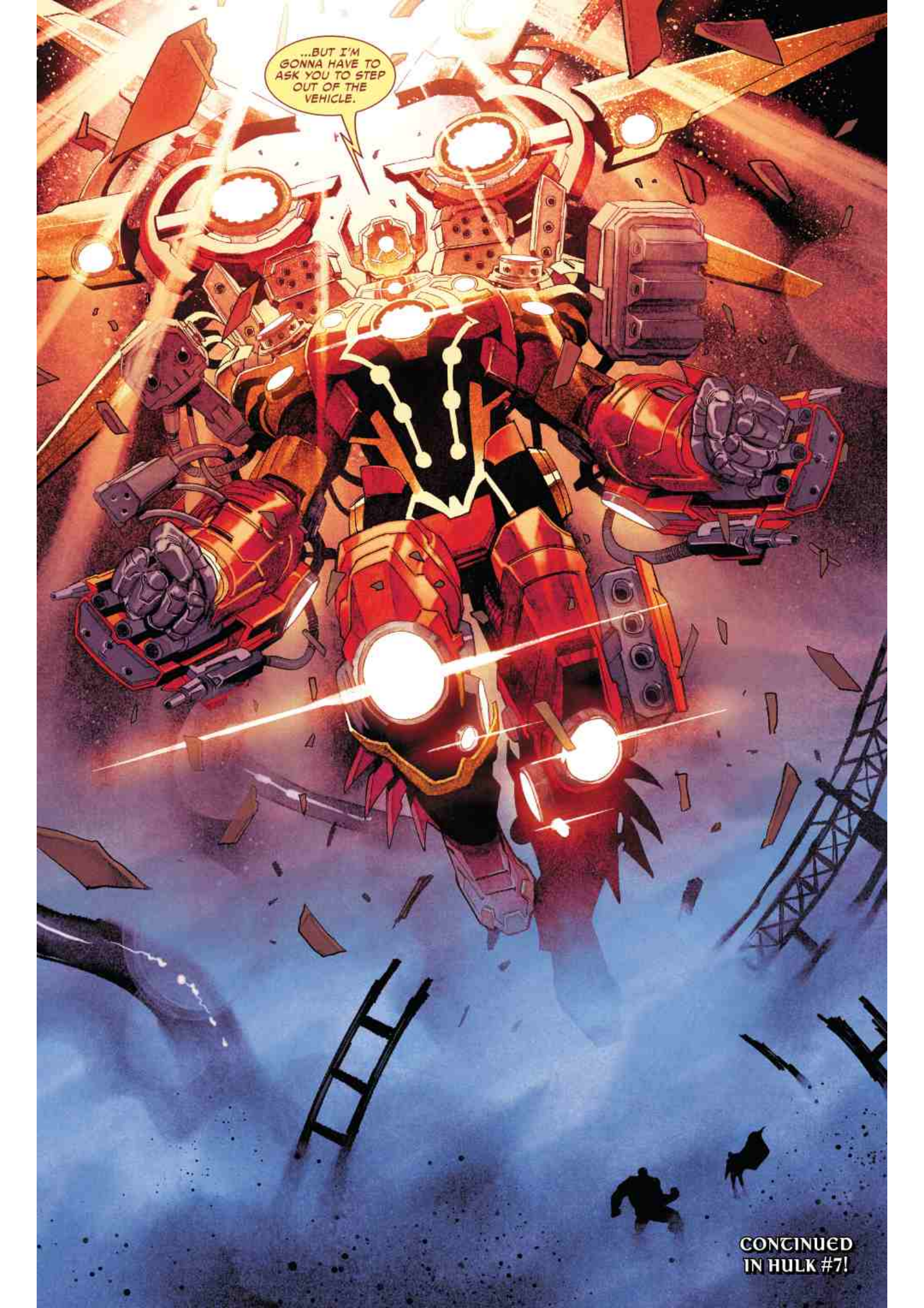
PLEASE! COME BACK! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE DOESN'T KNOW!



"HE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S NOT IN A SIMULATION!!!"

HEY BRUCE. LONG TIME NO SMASH.

SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS, BIG GUY...



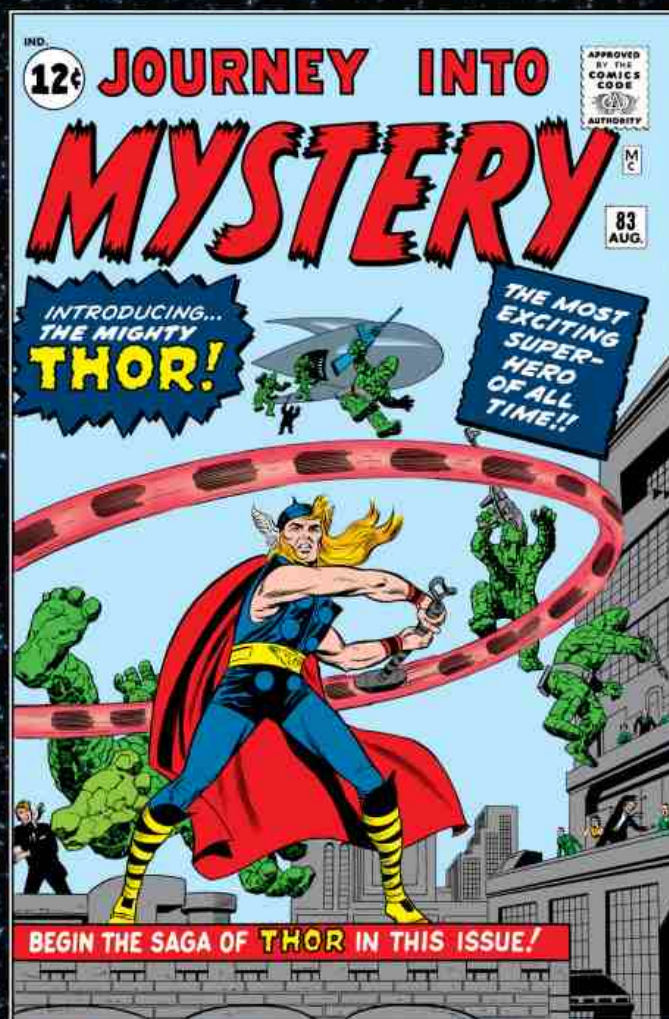
...BUT I'M
GONNA HAVE TO
ASK YOU TO STEP
OUT OF THE
VEHICLE.

CONTINUED
IN HULK #7!

IN HONOR OF 2022 BEING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARVEL'S FIRST THOR STORY IN *JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY* #83—AND TO CELEBRATE THIS VOLUME'S MOMENTOUS 25TH ISSUE!—WE'VE GOT TWO BONUS STORIES FOR YOU HERE: ONE BY A TEAM FROM THIS TITLE'S LEGENDARY PAST AND ONE BY A TEAM POSSIBLY FROM THIS TITLE'S EPIC FUTURE!

TOM DeFALCO & RON FRENZ REDEFINED WHAT IT MEANT TO BE (AND WHO GOT TO BE!) THOR IN THEIR INCREDIBLE RUN, WHICH RAN FROM #383-459, ALL OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE ON MARVEL UNLIMITED AND A MUST-READ FOR ANY TRUE THOR FAN! TOM & RON REUNITE HERE FOR A STORY ABOUT THE ONE AND ONLY ENCHANTRESS.

NADIA SHAMMAS & SIMONE D'ARMINI MAY BE NEW TO PAGES OF THOR, BUT THEY'RE BOTH ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED COMIC CREATORS, WITH NADIA HAVING WRITTEN THE ACCLAIMED GRAPHIC NOVEL *SQUIRE* AND SIMONE HAVING ILLUSTRATED AN AMAZING GRAPHIC NOVEL CALLED *SPIDER KING*. THEY TEAM UP HERE FOR A MODERN RETELLING OF AN ACTUAL NORSE MYTH ABOUT THOR AND LOKI!



“IF THIS BE MERCY!”

TOM DeFALCO & RON FRENZ
SCRIPT, PLOT & PENCILS

MATT WILSON
COLORIST

BRETT BREEDING
INKER

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

“THOR'S WEDDING”

(ADAPTED FROM THE NORSE MYTH OF THE SAME NAME)

NADIA SHAMMAS
WRITER

DETE PANTAZIS
COLOR ARTIST

SIMONE D'ARMINI
ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

I AM AMORA, ALTHOUGH
MOST KNOW ME ONLY AS
THE ENCHANTRESS.

FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES,
I JOUSTED WITH THE FORMER
LORD OF ASGARD, ODIN,
THE ALL-SEEING--

--FOREVER BALANCED
BETWEEN HIS LOFTY
ASPIRATIONS AND MY
OWN SECRET AGENDAS.

ONE SUCH SQUABBLE
STILL HAUNTS ME.

'T WAS SHORTLY AFTER
A MOST GRUESOME
WAR AND MY
GREATEST LOSS.*

**"IF THIS
BE
MERCY!"**

HAPPINESS
ETERNAL WAS
WITHIN YOUR GRASP,
AMORA.

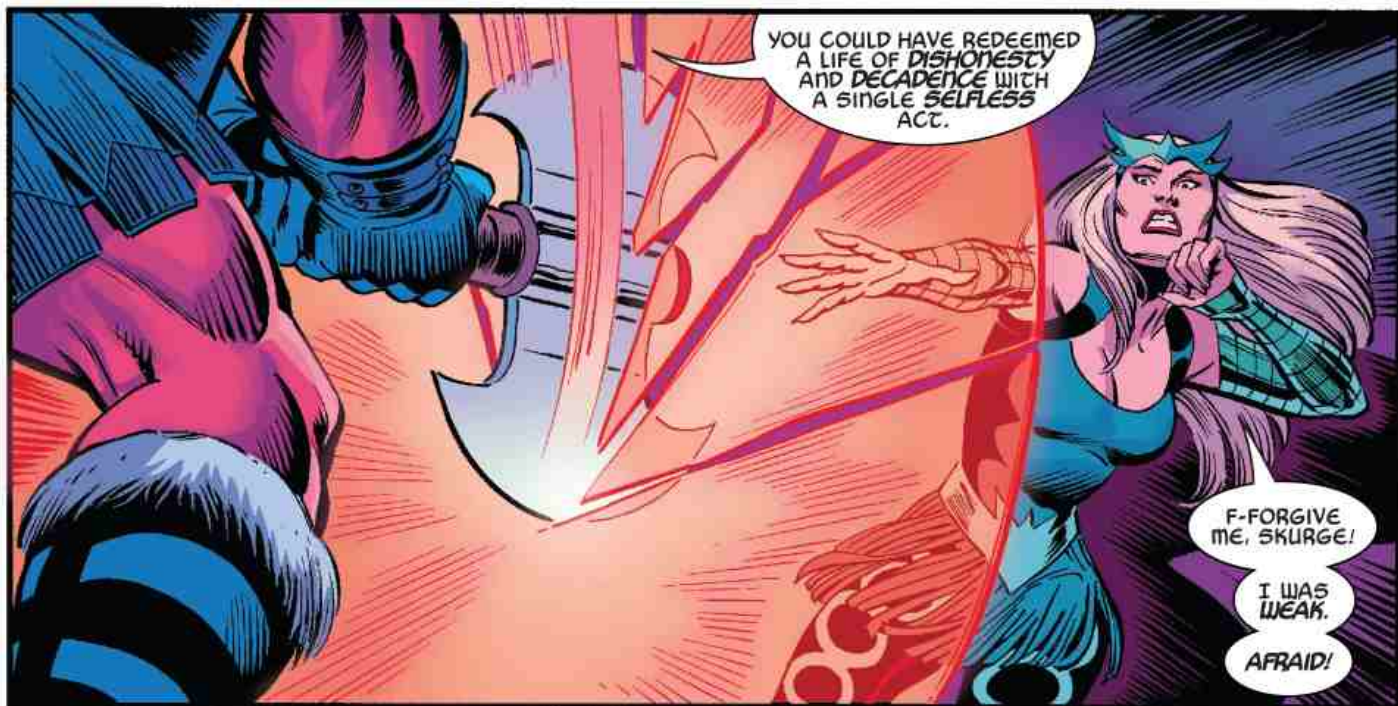
YOU
REJECTED
IT.

SPURNED
ME!

TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ
SCRIPT, PLOT & PENCILS
BRETT BREEDING MATT WILSON
INKS COLORS

VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERS

*SEE THOR EPIC COLLECTION: WAR OF THE PANTHEONS! --WIL



YOU COULD HAVE REDEEMED
A LIFE OF DISHONESTY
AND DECADENCE WITH
A SINGLE SELFLESS
ACT.

F-FORGIVE
ME, SKURGE!

I WAS
WEAK.

AFRAID!



PATHETIC EXCUSES WILL
NOT REVIVE YOUR
DEAR SISTER.

NOR CAN FEEBLE
SPELLS STOP
MY AVENGING
AXE.

LORELEI
DIED BECAUSE
YOU FAILED HER.



YOU COULD HAVE JOINED
ME AND THE HONORED
DEAD IN
VALHALLA--

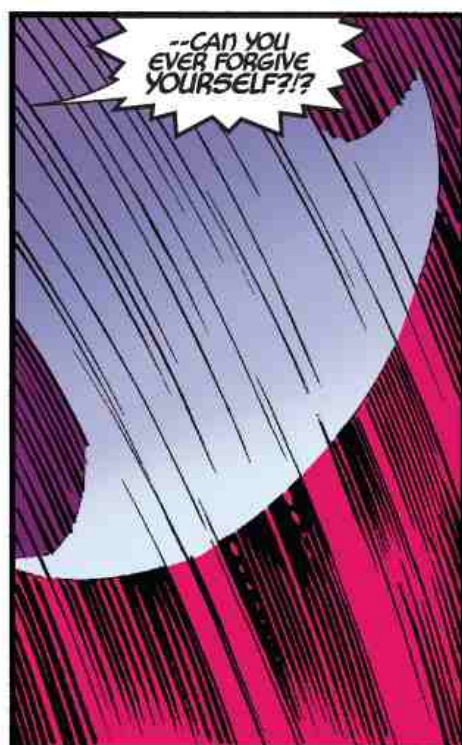


--BUT VANITY,
FEAR AND AVARICE
TRIUMPHED OVER LOVE.

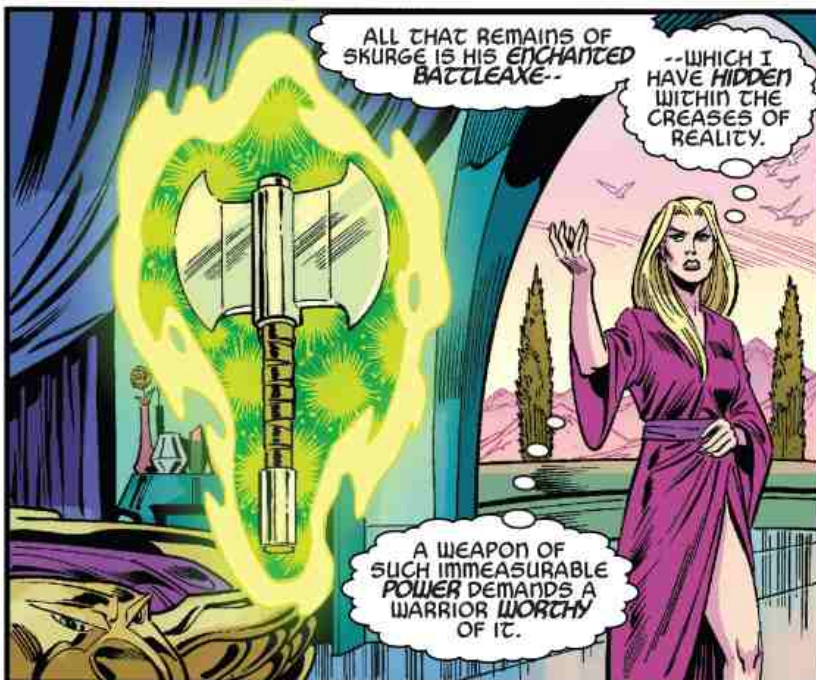


YOU FAILED US
ALL, AMORA.

EVEN IF I COULD
FORGIVE YOU--



--CAN YOU
EVER FORGIVE
YOURSELF?!?



"ARMED WARRIORS BESIEGE
OUR VERY GATES."

SUCH
ARROGANCE AND
AUDACITY!

WHO
DARES THREATEN
AMORA, THE
ENCHANTRESS?!!



SPEAK! TELL ME
THE OBJECTIVE
OF THIS DOOMED
DELEGATION--



--AND TO
WHOM SHALL
I RETURN
YOUR MANGLED
CORPSES?



DOST THOU NOT RECOGNIZE
THE DISTINCTIVE ARMOR
OF THE CRIMSON
HAWKS?

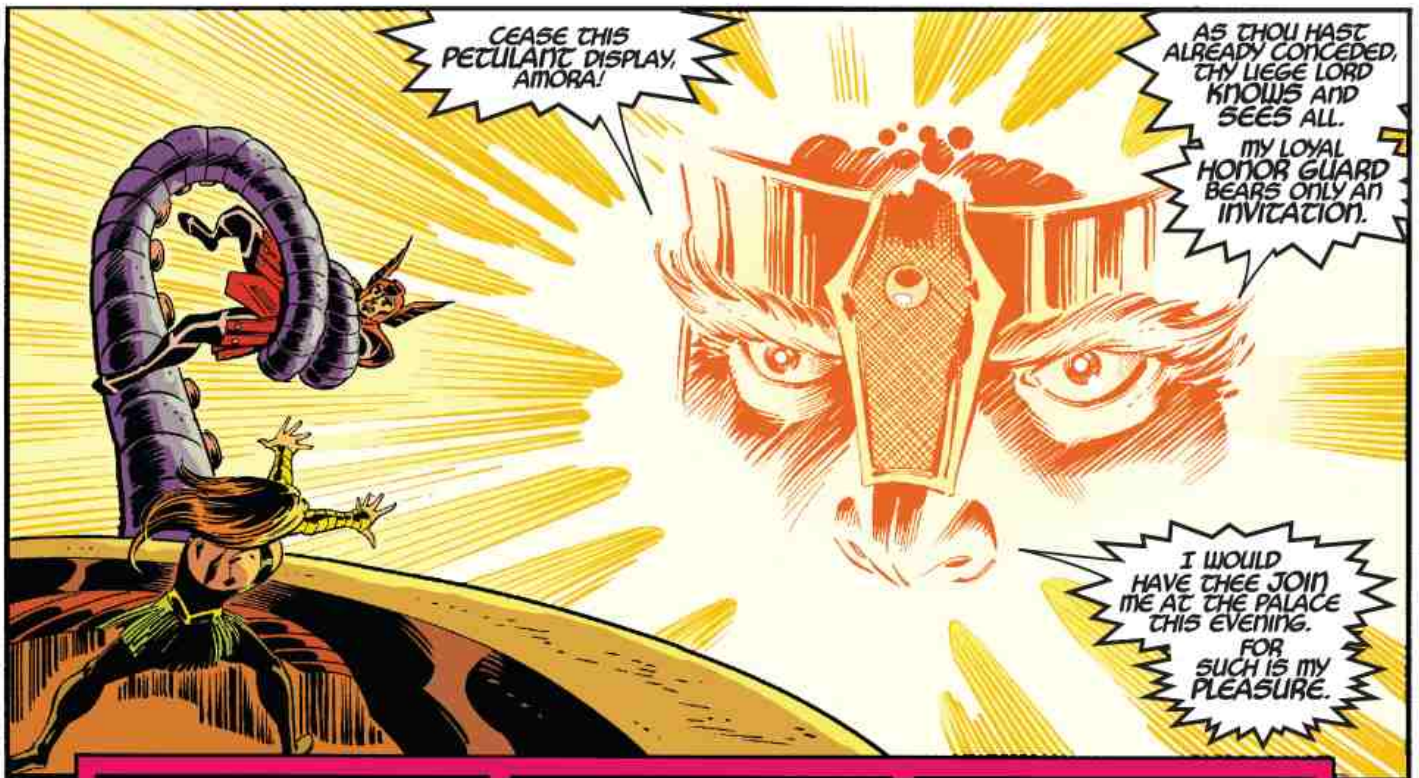
WE COME AT THE
BEHEST OF HE
WHOM IT IS OUR
HONOR TO SERVE--
ODIN, THE ALL-
MIGHTY!



WHAT
MESSAGE DO
YOU CARRY FROM
THE ALL-
SEEING?



OF WHAT
CRIMES AM I
NOW ACCUSED?!!



CEASE THIS
PETULANT DISPLAY,
AMORA!

AS THOU HAST
ALREADY CONCEDED,
THY LIEGE LORD
KNOWS AND
SEES ALL.
MY LOYAL
HONOR GUARD
BEARS ONLY AN
INVITATION.

I WOULD
HAVE THEE JOIN
ME AT THE PALACE
THIS EVENING.
FOR
SUCH IS MY
PLEASURE.



AYE, MY
LORD.

I AM
HONORED TO
COME AT
YOUR--

--PLEASURE.



AM I
MAD?

DID ODIN JUST
EXPOSE A
WEAKNESS--
A SECRET
DESIRE?!!

HE IS A
MAN, AFTER
ALL--

--AND NO MAN
CAN RESIST THE
ENCHANTRESS.



I SHALL CALL UPON
MY DARKEST
MAGICKS--

--ENHANCED
BY THE POWER
OF SKURGE'S
BATTLEAXE--

--TO CREATE
THE ULTIMATE
SEDUCTION SPELL.



HAVE FAITH
IN YOUR MATCHLESS
BEAUTY AND
UNRIVALED POWER,
AMORA.



NEVER HAVE
ANY ATTEMPTED
SO AMBITIOUS
A FEAT.

NOR PLAYED
SO DEADLY A
GAME.

THE RISK
IS GREAT. THE
PRIZE, BEYOND
COMPREHENSION!



"FOR I WOULD SEIZE
THE VERY THRONE
OF ASGARD!"

BEHOLD,
O MIGHTY
SOVEREIGN OF
SOVEREIGNS.

YOUR MOST
LOYAL SUBJECT
HEEDS THY
BIDDING.

WE ARE
THE RICHER FOR
THY PRESENCE,
MILADY.

MY SERVANTS
WILL TAKE THY
CLOAK AND REMOVE
MY ARMOR SO THAT WE
MAY BE AT EASE AND
UNDISTURBED.

THIS
SACRED CHAMBER
SHALL SOON BE
EMPTIED.

MY
WORDS ARE
FOR THEE
ALONE.



YOU HONOR
ME, LORD.

HOW MAY
I SERVE
YOU?

'TIS I
WHO LONGS
TO SERVE
THEE.

I WOULD EASE
THY TROUBLED
HEART--



--AND OFFER MY MOST
PROFOUND SYMPATHY O'ER
THE RECENT LOSS OF
LORELEI.

TH-THY
COMPASSION--
THY MERCY--IS
AS BOUNDLESS AS
YOUR ALMIGHTY
ODIN POWER,
MY LORD.



I SHALL CHERISH
THIS MOMENT
FOREVERMORE.

FOR
IT MARKS
MY TRIUMPH
SUPREME.





WHAT LOATHSOME
MADNESS DOST
POSSESS THEE,
WOMAN?

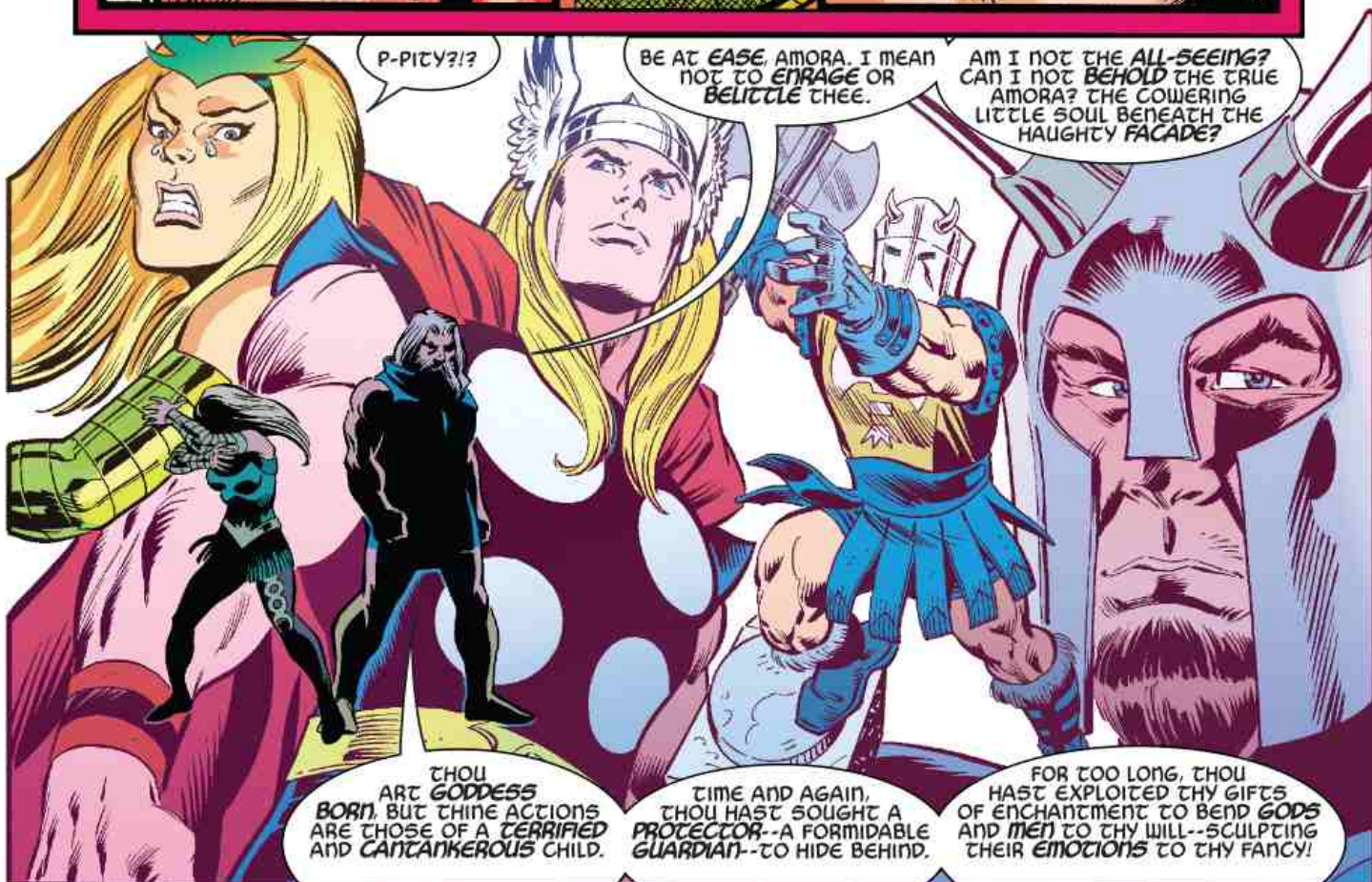
IT IS INCONCEIVABLE--
UNIMAGINABLE--THAT
THE ALL-FATHER
BE LAID LOW BY
SUCH A CRAVEN
PLOY.

ONCE AGAIN,
THY FEARS AND
DESIRES BLIND
THEE TO ALL
REASON.



THIS BASE BETRAYAL
FILLS ME WITH TOWERING
REVULSION--

--AND
IMMEASURABLE
PITY.



P-PITY?!?

BE AT EASE, AMORA. I MEAN
NOT TO ENRAGE OR
BELITTLE THEE.

AM I NOT THE ALL-SEEING?
CAN I NOT BEHOLD THE TRUE
AMORA? THE COWERING
LITTLE SOUL BENEATH THE
HAUGHTY FACADE?

THOU
ART GODDESS
BORN, BUT THINE ACTIONS
ARE THOSE OF A TERRIFIED
AND CANTANKEROUS CHILD.

TIME AND AGAIN,
THOU HAST SOUGHT A
PROTECTOR--A FORMIDABLE
GUARDIAN--TO HIDE BEHIND.

FOR TOO LONG, THOU
HAST EXPLOITED THY GIFTS
OF ENCHANTMENT TO BEND GODS
AND MEN TO THY WILL--SCULPTING
THEIR EMOTIONS TO THY FANCY!

NO LONGER CANST
THOU BELIEVE THAT ANY
WOULD BESTOW THEIR
LOVE *FREELY!* HAPPILY!
ANXIOUSLY!

BUT
LORELEI AND
SKURGE PROVED
IT SO.



AND I...I
FAILED THEM
BOTH.

IS THERE NO
REPRIEVE FROM
MY OVERWHELMING
GUILT? NO *MERCY*--
NO *FORGIVENESS*--
FOR THE
ENCHANTRESS??

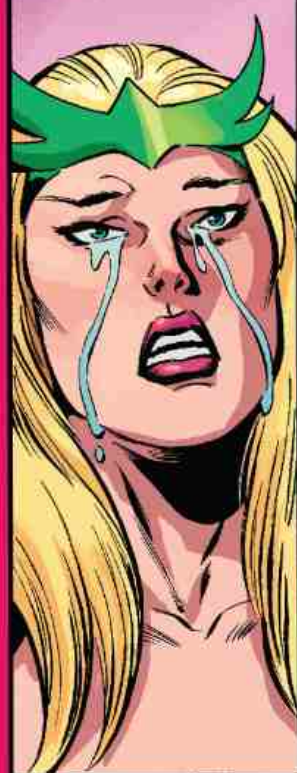


WE ARE ALL *HEARTSICK*.
AMORA. *ASGARD* LOST
TOO MANY OF OUR
BROTHERS, SISTERS
AND CHILDREN IN THE
RECENT *WAR*.



HAVE COMPASSION FOR
A FATHER WHO CANNOT
BEAR TO LOSE
ANOTHER.

BECOME THE
SHINING GODDESS
THAT COULD BE
THY DESTINY.



FORSAKE THE PETTY
JEALOUSIES AND
SELFISHNESS OF
THY PAST.

STRIDE UPON
THE PATH OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
A SINGLE STEP
AT A TIME.

THOR BELIEVES
IN THEE.

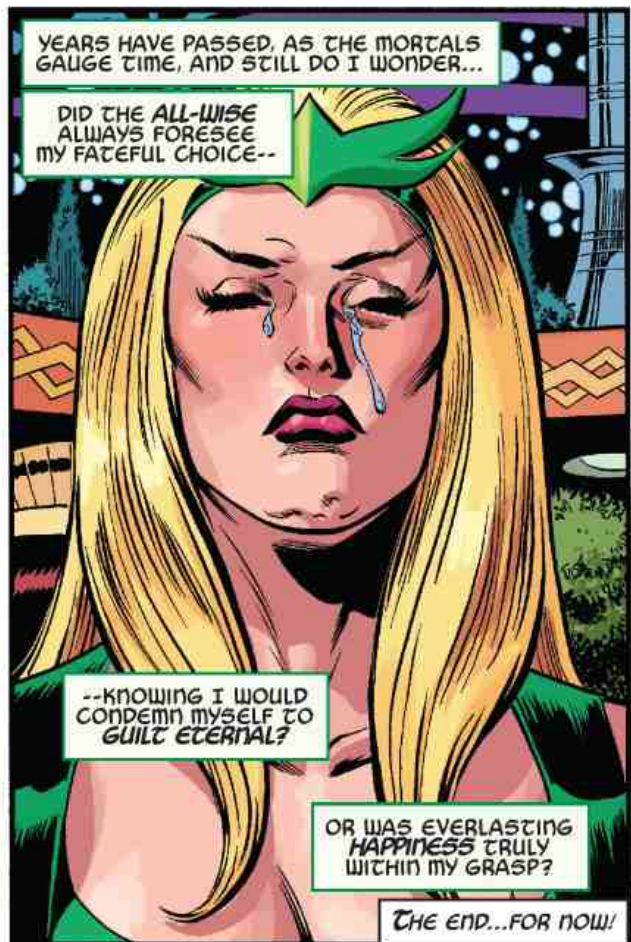
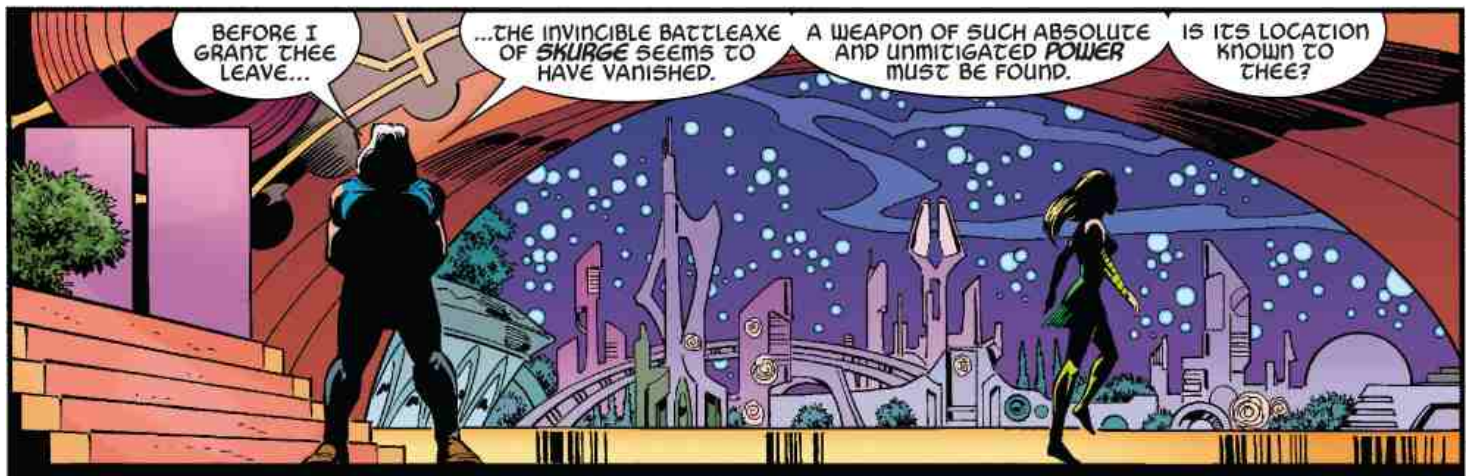
AS
DO I.



I SHALL
TRY, MY
LORD.

I SHALL
TRY.





"THOR'S WEDDING" (ADAPTED FROM THE NORSE MYTH)

LOKI!

BROTHER.

NADIA SHAMMAS
WRITER
PETE PANTAZIS
COLOR ARTIST

SIMONE D'ARMINI
ARTIST
VC's JOE SABINO
LETTERER

WHATEVER
YOU'RE HERE
FOR, I DIDN'T
DO IT.

DRINK?

FOR ONCE...
I AM NOT HERE
BECAUSE OF YOUR
MACHINATIONS.

I NEED...
A FAVOR.

A FAVOR,
IS IT?



"I HOPE YOU KNOW, BROTHER, THAT FAVORS CARRY A STEEP PRICE."

"I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM YOU, LOKI."



"SO WHAT DESPERATE MADNESS BRINGS YOU BEGGING AT MY FEET?"

"IT'S...MJOLNIR. IT'S IN JOTUNHEIM, IN THE CLUTCHES OF ONE OF THE GIANT KINGS."

"CONSIDERING OUR HISTORY, I FEAR IT WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR ME TO GO ACCUSING A GIANT OF STEALING MY HAMMER."



"BUT SILVER-TONGUED AS YOU ARE...PERHAPS YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK."

"OH HO HO...YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY BIG AFTER THIS."



HAIL, KING THRYM! THE MOST MAGNIFICENT OF THE GIANT KINGS.



IT GLADDENS ME TO SEE YOUR TIME WITH THE AESIR DIDN'T HAVE YOU FORGET YOUR MANNERS.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY REALM?

GRACIOUS KING, I HAVE TRAVELED ACROSS THE WORLDS FOR THE SAKE OF MY BROTHER, THOR.

HIS GREATEST POSSESSION, MJOLNIR, IS MISSING.

AND NOW I COME HERE IN MY QUEST, HUMBL Y ASKING--

YES. I STOLE IT.*

*NOTE: IN THE ORIGINAL NORSE MYTHS, THERE WASN'T AN ENCHANTMENT ON MJOLNIR THAT ONLY ALLOWED THOR TO LIFT IT. --KAITLYN



I STOLE MJOLNIR AND BURIED IT EIGHT MILES DEEP IN THE FROZEN SOIL. NO ONE WILL EVER FIND IT, UNLESS I WANT THEM TO.

...I SEE. WHAT ARE YOUR DEMANDS?



I DESIRE A WIFE.

I DESIRE YOUR SISTER, ANGELA.

I WILL EXPECT HER TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE WEEK.

OTHERWISE... MJOLNIR STAYS BURIED, LOST UNDER THE NEVER-ENDING SNOW OF JOTUNHEIM.









MY LADY, I HAVE PREPARED THE MOST MAGNIFICENT FEAST FOR YOU.

WE HAVE SLAUGHTERED GOATS AND SHEEP. WE HAVE AS MANY BARRELS OF MEAD AS THERE ARE STARS IN THE SKY. WE HAVE--

NO, MY KING. TRULY I CANNOT WAIT A MOMENT LONGER TO BE MARRIED--WE SHOULD GO TO THE CEREMONY **RIGHT NOW**.



MY LADY, SURELY IT WOULD BE **DISRESPECTFUL** TO YOUR NEW **HUSBAND** TO DENY SUCH A MARVELOUS FEAST.

WE SIMPLY **MUST EAT**, NO?



VERY WELL.



EXCELLENT!



TO ANGELA AND OUR UNION!

TO ANGELA AND THRYM!



WHAT AN APPETITE YOU HAVE, MY DEAR.

SHE WAS SO EXCITED FOR HER WEDDING DAY, SHE DIDN'T EAT FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK!



OH MY, WHAT A SWEETHEART.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A WOMAN PUT AWAY SO MANY KEGS OF MEAD BEFORE, THOUGH.



OH, MY, LADY IS JUST NERVOUS.

AS VORACIOUS AS HER DESIRE IS FOR YOU...SHE'S NEVER FELT THE TOUCH OF A MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF.



DON'T WORRY, MY DELICATE BLOSSOM. I'LL BE GENTLE.

HAHAHAHA!

PAT PAT



ENOUGH!!

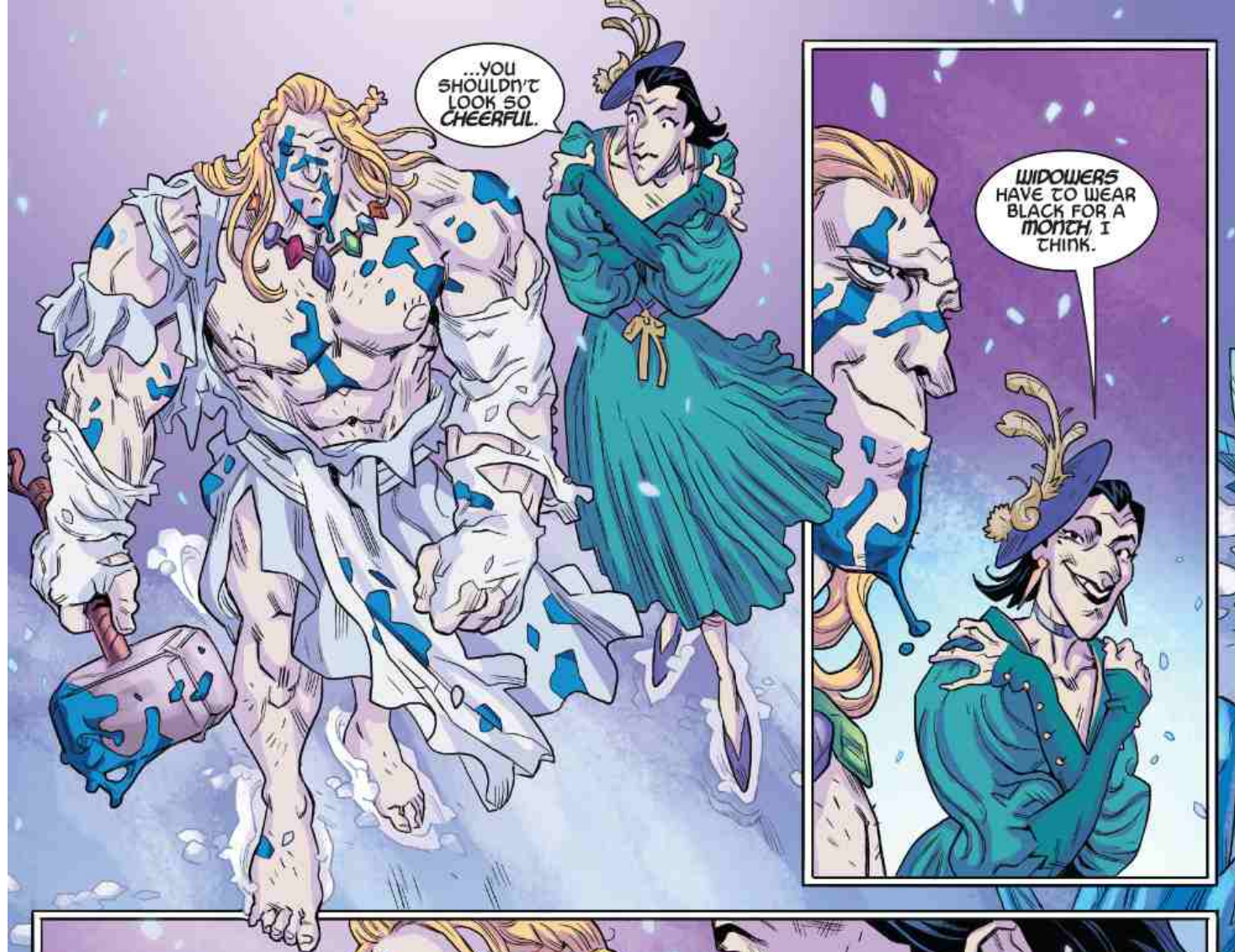


AHEM...

HUSBAND, I SO DESIRE TO BE WITH YOU AND REIGN AS YOUR QUEEN.

WOULD YOU PLEASE GET MJOLNIR SO THAT I MAY FINISH MY OBLIGATION TO MY BROTHER AND BEGIN MY LIFE WITH YOU?





QUOTH THE RAVENS: THE HUGINN & MUNINN SHOW

WRITE TO US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK YOUR MISSIVES "OKAY TO PRINT."



Muninn! Did you not say we could venture to Midgard for more of those "hot dogs" the Spider-Fellow gave us once we finished handling the mortals' missives?

Why, Huginn, never have I seen you so eager to handle the missives. Is it really only treats that entice you? Or are you feeling especially motivated by having so many missives addressed to us directly of late?

As much as it is a worthy honor to finally be getting the recognition we deserve for our service to the All-Father--where would he be without us, particularly now?--in truth, Muninn, I do quite dream of our new snacks... I wish to try the "ravish" topping! Hurry, then! Missives from mortals!

Huginn, I believe the topping is called relish--ah, never mind. The missives, Huginn, please.

Dear Stan and Jack--err--I mean, dear Huginn and Muninn,

THOR #22 kicked into high gear with a classic cover and magnificent splash pages of heroes uniting against the God of Hammers. However, the combined might of Beta Ray Bill's Brigade was simply no match for this combination of Mjolnir and Mangog. Next, we learn Thor can create an energy tornado without his hammer. What??? Then Thor resets his broken forearm and gains the Odin-Force. And just like that, the odds seem to turn in favor of the All-Father of Asgard. Oh, and we find out that Thor's wayward hammer and the recent events involving his old alter ego, Dr. Donald Blake, are connected. Who knows where this is all headed but I'm enjoying the ride. Cates, Klein and all the rest are producing a memorable run on one of my all-time favorite titles. Lee and Kirby would be proud!

JC Preas
Roanoke, Virginia, USA
Midgard

I thought you said those new missives were more often being addressed to us rather than to the scribes, Muninn? This mortal knows not even whom the current scribes are!

Now, now, Huginn, it is important to always hold dear the memory of our original scribes, who aided us in first bringing the tales of the All-Father to Midgard! Indeed, we have been fortunate to have many wonderful scribes, and we will be certain to pass word to Master Donny and Master Nic! It is a story with many twists and turns, as Master JC here has noted, and only skilled scribes can truly bring them to light.

Hmph, skilled scribes--what of the skilled messengers who must communicate those twists and turns?

What a proud bird you can be. It is we who are writing to the Midgardians! Our importance has never been understated.

Dear Huginn & Muninn,

I've been a Mighty Marvel Reader all of my life, but I shamefacedly confess...I've never picked up an issue of THOR. Ever! I had my Thor lunchbox in 1980 but that was it; I was absorbed by other Marvel titles.

Forgive me!

I just picked up issue #23 of THOR on a whim. I wanted to see if Iric and Alvi would make an appearance in Asgard now that their school in Midgard is going on hiatus (and I must admit, I was also smitten by a glimpse of Nic's rendition of the lovely Angela).

Wow! It was Wagnerian! A relatable Thor with mortal self-confidence problems! Mystical ravens summoning a sword on a rainbow to save the day! Mjolnir treasonous?! Mjolnir punished! Mjolnir shattered! Then...reforged! "A King can't rule from his knees." Great writing!

I can't resist wondering...where did the souls of the dwarves go when Mjolnir was shattered? Have they been freed? Will they torment Thor later? By what questionable means did Angela reforge Mjolnir? Is Odin dead? Or is he now bound to Mjolnir?

I need to know! Henceforth, I will be a faithful reader.

Until Angela glues Mjolnir together with the soul of M.O.D.O.K., Make Mine Marvel!

Lee Hocking
Chandler, Arizona

Fear not, Master Lee, for there is nothing to forgive! It matters not when you joined us to learn the great tales of the All-Father, only that you are here now, as it is by the will of the All-Father that you come to pick up his tome. Indeed, there was quite the whirlwind of changes for Mjolnir. Surely we wish it were under better circumstances, but we do not loathe the chance to hear wisdom from the once All-Father Odin for just a bit longer...

You may be smitten with Angela, but as you are new to our tales, know that she is as fierce as she is beautiful, mortal! We wouldn't dare give flight to her secrets. I have no desire to have my wings clipped; thank you very much.

Proverbially speaking, of course! Huginn, your metaphors have historically been quite misleading. Need I remind you of the terrible fright you gave that young poet many years ago?

It is but a test, Muninn! To ensure the mortals are reading carefully! After all, many tricks lie within these stories, particularly when that meddling brother gets himself involved...

All the revelations by Mjolnir/Mangog satisfied my curiosity to no end. They were the ones behind all the problems with the hammer. Once again, everything was believable, at least for me. The art and coloring transported me to those awesome scenes in Nidavellir. Yet one nagging thought does cross my mind. Are the Mangog and the Mother Storm truly destroyed? They have been expelled from the hammer with its obliteration. But the Angels of Heaven have somehow reformed the mallet. My understanding of the metal uru is that it has certain mystical properties. It will be exciting to follow Cates in exploring the hammer's potential and how Thor will use it. Are the spirits of Odin and the dwarves dwelling within the hammer? Only Cates and time will reveal those secrets. Thanks again to you all for a marvelous ending to a much-anticipated ending to a great story arc. Carry on!

Robert Greg Espinosa
Stockton, CA

Many, many questions now about the nature of souls and Mjolnir! It is to be expected with the passing of Odin and the changes in Mjolnir, but I confess it has made me rather curious about the nature of spirits as well, since those deep magics are beyond even our great knowledge. Huginn, what do you make of the spirits that once inhabited Mjolnir?

You know as well as I that those dwarves of Nidavellir are stubborn and foolhardy, Muninn! Their spirits may very well be wherever they want to be, hammers or no. With so many Asgardians and Midgardians to keep track of, we cannot be tasked with flying through the realms to make note of the whereabouts of every single dwarven spirit.

That was hardly the question--

Ah, but it is the answer. We were recently tasked with the very important business of contacting the Avengers, for example! There is no time for spirit chasing.

Dear H&M Show,

I loved that BOTH you birds were on the cover of issue #23! And that you are depicted as having Thor's back as he faced some powerful foe! I liked the story inside too! Thor was victorious even if he did end up in the Odinsleep. Say, will we ever find out which of you delivered the message to Sif? I imagine it must've been whichever one of you was most tired (Huginn?). Anyway, thanks for taking part in the stories and for telling Donny, Nic and Matt how they happened. Oh, issue #750 is coming up! Happy 60th Anniversary, ravens! I hope you got loads of treats in celebration.

Alan Bowman
Sagamihara City, Japan

H&M Show! Of all the nicknames, I think I like this one the best. We have many. And yes, it was I who delivered the message to Sif--

Taking the credit for my tired wings again, are we, Huginn? Master Alan has been much too dutiful in his missives to us to believe such lies! Ah, our sixtieth anniversary... a long time for you Midgardians, yes, but for us; it seems to have happened almost in a flash! What a journey it has been, full of excitement, laughter, mischief, fear, love...

Yes, Muninn, you've made your point without covering the entire spectrum of emotion!

I cannot help myself; it is the truth! All this to say, there have been many stories told and many more to come. We shall pass all your praises along to the many scribes who conveyed stories for us, and of course to Master Donny and Master Nic (who, by the way, dear readers, you should know is already hard at work drawing his NEXT epic chronicle of the All-Father's adventures).

But first, we shall collect more treats, just as has been behest upon us! And in the meantime, you may send more of your prayers our way, so long as they are marked "OKAY TO PRINT."

NEXT

BANNER OF WAR

continues in
HULK #7!

Iron Man, equipped with new **"CELESTIAL HULKBUSTER"** armor of his own design, interrupts a pivotal moment in Hulk and Thor's battle to settle his score with the Hulk.



**BANNER OF
WAR CHECKLIST:**

PART ONE - HULK VS. THOR:
BANNER OF WAR ALPHA #1

PART TWO - THOR #25

PART THREE - HULK #7

PART FOUR - THOR #26

CONCLUSION - HULK #8

